CHESTERTON (CAMBS.)

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

For the Year 1895

BY

BUSHELL ANNINGSON, M.D., M.A.,

Cambridge University Lecturer in Medical Jurisprudence, Fellow Sanitary Institute, Associate King's College, London, &c., &c.

Medical Officer of Health.

Cambridge

J. PALMER, 9 & 10, ALEXANDRA STREET

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REPORT.

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1895.

Death rate.

The total number of deaths registered is 355, which, on this occasion, is identical with the total produced after making the usual corrections. The deaths outside the district of persons belonging thereto are respectively 22 in the Workhouse and 10 in Addenbrooke's Hospital, which must be added, while 32, which have occurred in the County Asylum at Fulbourn not belonging to the district, must be subtracted. The resulting number is equal to a death rate from all diseases of 15·1 per thousand living per annum. The rate of the previous year was 14·0, and that of 1893 13·8.

Zymotic death rate.

There have been 19 deaths in the group of zymotic disease, equal to a death rate from these diseases of 0·8 per thousand, viz: from Measles 3, Whooping Cough 5, Typhoid Fever 2, Diarrhœa 9.

Birth rate.

There have also occurred 15 deaths due to Influenza. The number of births registered is 599, equal to a birth rate of 25·5 per thousand per annum. The ratio of deaths under one year of age to 1000 registered births is 102.

After assigning to each of the sub-districts its share of the deaths in the above three public institutions, as per subjoined table, the vital statistics are respectively:—Willingham, general death rate 14·4, zymotic death rate 0·6, birth rate 27·3; Shelford, general death rate 16·0, zymotic death rate 1·3, birth rate 22·6; Fulbourn, general death rate 15·0, zymotic death rate 0·3, birth rate 26·3.

Sub-District.	Registered Deaths.	Addenbrooke's Hospital.	Workhouse.	County Asylum.	Total.	Death Rate.
Willingham... ...	120	3	11	1	135	14·4
Fulbourn	92	2	5	...	99	15·0
Shelford	107	5	6	3	121	16·0
Entire District	319	10	22	4	355	15·1

There is a slight increase of mortality over that of the previous year, but an examination of the rates for each sub-district shows that while there is a distinctly lower rate in Willingham, there is a considerable increase in Fulbourn and Shelford sub-districts. In both districts the increase has been mainly due to a greater number of deaths at the age-periods under one year, 15 to 25 and at 65 and upwards, especially the latter. There is in the Willingham sub-district a remarkable diminution of deaths of children under five years of age, and a slight increase in the other two sub-districts. There is a very marked increase in the number of deaths from heart disease, especially in the Shelford sub-district, where there has been also the most marked increase in the number of deaths of old persons.

Death rate among persons between one year and 60 = 6·0.

Death rate among persons aged 60 years and upwards = 70·0.

Death rate from phthisis 1·5, which is equal to the "admissible" average.

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Disease Incidence. Small Pox.

The district, unlike the experience of the two previous years, has happily escaped the importation of Small Pox.

Scarlet Fever.

In regard to scarlatinal incidence, it appears that nine cases have been notified in the Willingham sub-district, viz. two at Willingham, one at Dry Drayton, and six at Cottenham. The inception of the disease into the first household at Willingham could not be traced, but there is scarcely a doubt that the disease was introduced from this to the second household that was assailed.

Intermission of milk-purveying and school-exclusion were the measures of precaution adopted.

The infection of the household at Dry Drayton would appear to have been introduced from a village in the St. Ives district; isolation of the case at home sufficed to prevent further spread of the disease.

Of the six cases at Cottenham, only two, which occurred in March, appear to have any interconnection; all the others occurred in different months, except the two in December, and the origin of the infection could not be traced. School-exclusion was ordered.

In the Fulbourn sub-district one case occurred at Cherryhinton and Fen Ditton respectively. Of the case at Cherryhinton, close on the borders of Cambridge, the origin could not be satisfactorily traced. The case at Fen Ditton was either not recognised in the early stage of the disease, or not notified for some considerable time after the inception of the disease; two children of the household were antecedently supposed to have been suffering from nettle rash, and this was probably also really Scarlet Fever.

Six cases occurred in the Shelford sub-district, viz. three at Great Shelford, one at Shelford, one at Grantchester, and one at Haslingfield.

At Great Shelford one was that of a visitor who developed the disease within a week after arrival from the neighbourhood of Bury St. Edmunds, where there is little doubt the disease must have been contracted; two subsequent cases occurred in another household within thirty-six hours of each other, about a week after a visit to Hunstanton, and enquiry elicited that there were children desquamating, after some infectious diseases not specified, at that place; one of the cases in question however was stated to be German Measles.

With regard to the case at Little Shelford, there was some uncertainty; there were no other cases of Scarlet Fever in the village, but these children were attending the Great Shelford School where there were other cases of ill defined throat illness.

The case at Grantchester was that of a girl, aged 13, attending school at Cambridge, and it was at first surmised that the disease might have been contracted there, but it subsequently transpired that one of the domestics of the household had been

desquamating antecedently to the girl's attack; good isolation could be provided in the house, and a milk business was suspended during the presence of the disease.

Although only one case was notified at Haslingfield, there was evidence pointing to the presence of the disease in the village for some time antecedent; some of the children absent from school were stated to have been suffering from nettle rash. An instance of gross carelessness occurred in connection with this case, inasmuch as the child in question was taken with some other members of the family to spend the afternoon in the town of Cambridge. The evidence as to exposure in the district was not deemed sufficient for a prosecution, and pointed rather to exposure in the town of Cambridge, whereupon the Authority directed the attention of the Urban District of Cambridge to the matter, but inasmuch as considerable time had elapsed before the matter was brought to their notice, it was deemed advisable that no further action should be taken.

Thorough disinfection of houses and schools and school-exclusion were the precautionary measures adopted in every case except at Haslingfield, where on account of the uncertainty of the extent of epidemic-influence the schools were closed.

Measles.

Measles were present during the year at the following villages: viz. Girton, Little Shelford, Willingham, Horningsea, Fen Ditton, and the Chittering Hamlet of Waterbeach; and the schools at the four latter places were closed for varying periods according to the continuance of the disease.

Diphtheria.

In the Willingham sub-district three cases of Diphtheria were notified at Cottenham, where this disease is continually recurring. Exclusion from school and thorough disinfection were the precautionary measures adopted.

In the Fulbourn sub-district two cases were notified, one at Quy, and one at Cherryhinton. The case at Quy was that of a domestic, but no satisfactory cause could be ascertained.

The case at Cherryhinton occurred in a household situated in the locality where Diphtheria has previously occurred.

In the Shelford sub-district one case occurred at Newton; no connection with a previous case could be traced, but the sanitary conditions of the house were found to be faulty.

Typhoid Fever.

Two cases of Typhoid Fever occurred in the Fulbourn sub-district, one at Fen Ditton and Fulbourn respectively. The case at Fen Ditton occurred at an outlying part of the village, near to Cambridge.

In the Shelford sub-district three cases occurred, one at Grantchester, Stapleford, and Newton respectively. At Grantchester the water supply was known to be pure, but the sanitary conditions of the house were seriously defective, and, moreover, it was in the same house at which a case occurred two years previously.

At Stapleford the case occurred in a household where there had been a case four years previously, and the water supply was unsatisfactory.

The case at Newton was that of a domestic who frequently visited a part of Stapleford, where Typhoid Fever recurs from time to time.

Erysipelas.

Twenty-two cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year, but could not be associated with any satisfactory cause.

Puerperal Fever.

Three cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, one in each sub-district, of which one was fatal.

Isolation Hospital.

The need of an Isolation Hospital continues to make itself felt from time to time, and it is regrettable that the steps taken some time ago have led to no practical result.

WATER SUPPLY.

With regard to the water supply, I can only repeat still once again my recommendations as to the needs of Cottenham, Willingham, Stapleford, and part of Impington.

The case of Cottenham has been under consideration for years, and reminds one of the experience of the Israelites; it is at least to be hoped that a pure water supply may, like the promised land, become the reward of a subsequent generation. The only step taken during the year has been to refer to the Parish Council the question of acquisition of land for the erection of water-works. The area of the water-cart service has been extended for the past six months so as to include a larger number of streets.

The case of Willingham is not very different, except in the circumstance that it was never so near the attainment of its needs as Cottenham, whose interests were sacrificed for those of a private company for a period of five years. Nearly every fresh sample

of water taken for analysis from this parish gives evidence of serious pollution; the last sample being one from the premises of the school.

Stapleford, like Cottenham, got very near the attainment of its needs, when the project was wrecked by side issues. As the Authority well knows, Typhoid Fever is continually making its appearance in this village.

If I might point to an example of the benefit of an improved water supply (the result of private enterprise), I would select Histon, which in spite of serious drainage defects, has had now during several years a gradually diminishing record of disease incidence.

Great Shelford is another village where a benefit may be expected to accrue when the public supply is further extended. Of seven samples of well water examined during the year, only one was found to be chemically pure; such a condition of things in a growing residential village having many natural advantages, coupled with a still unsatisfactory drainage system, is at least regrettable. Notwithstanding, recent improvements in this regard future difficulties may be expected. Diphtheria now and again shows a disposition to linger within its borders.

The provision of a better water supply at Church End, Cherry-hinton, than has hitherto been available, should engage the attention of the Authority; and it should not be difficult to make arrangements with the Company, which draws a large part of its supply from this parish.

A troublesome water question is coming up in both the parishes of Longstanton. In St. Michael's parish in Post Office Lane an old well has, on account of the polluted state of the water, been closed by order of the Authority, and a well has been substituted at the further end of this lane, close to an ash-pit. Water from this source must be considered of doubtful quality, and cannot be therefore regarded as an improvement, and is not so regarded by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, who on this account do not use it; they are therefore left without a supply within a reasonable distance. At All Saints' parish the water supplied by the parish pump near the pillar-box has on analysis been found to be polluted and ordered to be closed; and there is no other supply within reasonable distance of the persons

who use it. Steps will have to be taken as early as practicable to extricate the inhabitants from their present difficulty.

Thirty-one samples of water have been analysed; ten found to be pure, nineteen unfit for drinking purposes, and two of too ferruginous a quality for domestic purposes.

Wells have been closed—at Cottenham 3, Great Shelford 5, Grantchester 2, Trumpington 1; and orders issued for the closure of the following: viz. Impington 2, Longstanton 2, and Histon 1.

At Great Shelford a new well has been made.

Water certificates under Sec. 6 Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, have been granted for one house at Grantchester and four houses at Cherryhinton. With regard to Willingham the statute is practically inoperative.

Water has been laid on from the Cambridge Company's main to six houses at Great Shelford, two houses at Grantchester, and six houses at Trumpington.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage.

At Cottenham a new surface drain of glazed pipes has been laid from the "Green" to the Alms-houses, in place of an open ditch which has been filled up. The other drains have been cleaned out, and two traps put down where they were needed.

At Willingham the street drains, and the Lode into which they empty, have been cleansed during the year, but the whole system of drainage of this village is still unsatisfactory; the Lode must continue to be polluted and a source of nuisance, until some comprehensive scheme has been devised.

The drainage of Landbeach has been under discussion, but nothing of a satisfactory character has yet been devised; but this long standing nuisance should receive the early attention of the Authority, as the present conditions are calculated to be injurious to the health of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the Waterbeach Road.

At Waterbeach the drains have been cleansed during the year.

At Oakington a new drain of glazed pipes has been laid from the neighbourhood of the Church to Pridgeon's public house.

At Fulbourn the drains in Chaffy's Row have been repaired and cleansed, and the other drains have also been cleansed.

At Cherryhinton, at the Rock estate, the open ditch along the side of the road has been filled up and a glazed pipe drain substituted; whether anything beyond surface water is admitted to this drain is at present uncertain, but if house drains are found to be connected, the nuisance complained of, as having existed in the ditch, will be subsequently transferred to the watercourse. The drainage difficulties, which I have adverted to in my previous reports on this building estate, are beginning to make themselves evident.

At Great Shelford a drain with cesspool has been put in at Pound Yard, but that, in my opinion, is not a satisfactory solution of the drainage difficulty.

The drain nuisances at River Lane, Trumpington, Grantchester and Histon, have been temporarily abated, but with regard to the latter, the managers of the Jam Factory have undertaken to divert and dispose of on their land the trade refuse which is complained of as polluting the watercourse.

With regard to the drainage of Newnham Croft and the adjoining neighbourhood in the parish of Grantchester and its inclusion in the General Sewerage Scheme for the Borough of Cambridge, the works are approaching the district, and specifications have been prepared, and full effect will be given to the scheme in all probability during the current year.

OVERCROWDING.

Overcrowding.

At Waterbeach two cases have been reported, and one has been satisfactorily abated by the removal of the family; the other still remains to be dealt with.

At Cottenham two cases were reported, and still remain unabated owing to the difficulty experienced by the respective families in finding other accommodation.

UNHEALTHY DWELLINGS.

Unhealthy Dwellings.

In regard to an unhealthy dwelling at Waterbeach, the nuisance has been abated by the closure of the house on notice from the Authority, without legal proceedings.

All the above remarks, together with the tables of statistics and of Inspector's work, I respectfully submit to the Rural District Council.

TABLE A.

Table of Deaths during the year 1895 in the Rural Sanitary District of Chesterton; classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (*Columns for Population & Births see Table B.*)	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																									
													Fevers.																				
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upward		Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Influenza.	Cancer.	Pyæmia.	Other Diseases.	Totals.
(*a*)	(*b*)	(*c*)	(*d*)	(*e*)	(*f*)	(*g*)	(*h*)	(*i*)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	20*a*	20*b*	20*c*	21	22
Willingham ...	120	21	5	5	6	25	58	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	18	26
								5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	15	11	17	2	5	5	...	38	94	
Fulbourn	92	20	2	2	9	23	36	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	...	...	14	22
								5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	10	3	1	6	...	33	70	
Shelford	107	22	7	1	9	16	52	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	...	...	1	5	1	...	2	...	...	13	29
								5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	7	19	3	5	8	...	27	78	
Fulbourn Asylum	36	...	...	...	1	12	23	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	5	5	1	...	1	...	20	36	
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
								5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
									...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
									...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
									...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Totals	355	63	14	8	25	76	169	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7	...	...	1	12	1	...	4	...	...	45	77
								5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	34	29	51	9	11	20	...	118	278

The subjoined numbers have also been taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside district among persons belonging thereto. Addenbrooke's Hosptl.	10	1	1	1	...	5	2	Under 5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
								5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	3	8
Union Workhouse ...	22	...	...	...	...	3	19	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	...	...	...	...	14	22
Deaths occurring within district among persons not belonging thereto. County Asylum ...	32	...	...	...	1	10	21	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	3	4	1	...	1	...	19	32

TABLE B.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Rural Sanitary District of Chesterton; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, *and* LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES. Census. 1891.	Registered Births.		New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.												
								FEVERS.												FEVERS.									
				Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	English Cholera.	Erysipelas.			Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Perpetual.	English Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
(*a*)	(*b*)	(*c*)	(*d*)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Willingham ...	9364	256	Under 5	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			5 upwards	...	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fulbourn... ...	6559	173	Under 5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			5 upwards	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shelford	7541	170	Under 5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			5 upwards	...	5	1	...	...	3	...	...	1	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fulbourn Asylum			Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	23464	599	Under 5	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			5 upwards	...	14	5	...	...	5	...	...	3	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

NOTE.—The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, came into operation in the District on November 7th, 1889. There is no Isolation Hospital for the use of the sick.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FROM JANUARY 1, 1895, TO DECEMBER 31, 1895.

Special complaints received during the year	60
Complaints entered in the journal	449
Overcrowded houses reported to the Authority	5
Houses unfit for human habitation	1
Houses repaired after damage by storm	a large number
Cottages and premises cleansed	50
Houses, cottages, and articles therein fumigated after infectious cases of fever...	26
Disinfectants sent out to infected houses and unhealthy premises	221
House waste-water pipes disconnected from open ditches and laid into settling cesspools and wells	1
House drains cleansed; six of same newly trapped	35
New made parish drains with glazed pipes	3
Slaughter-house drains cleansed	15
Privies repaired and converted into pail closets	6
Newly provided pail closets	1
Removal of accumulations of dung, stagnant water animal and other refuse	230
Swine removed—being improperly kept	4
Samples of water analysed for the Sanitary Authority ...	31

Ten of the same wholesome.
Two containing too much oxide of iron.
Nineteen unfit for drinking purposes.

Water certificates granted by the Authority as a condition for occupation of newly-erected houses	4

All are supplied by pipes from the Cambridge Water Co.'s mains.

Wholesome water supplies provided to old houses where the old wells are polluted with sewage, etc.—supplied from the Cambridge Water Co.'s main pipe ...	14
Polluted wells closed by the Authority	11
Polluted wells ordered to be closed by the Authority ...	5
Legal proceedings—Summonses to close polluted wells ...	1

W. E. MASTERS,
Inspector of Nuisances.